

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
)	
Hitoshi KOMURO et al.)	
)	
Application No.: Unassigned)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
)	
Filed: February 23, 2004)	Examiner: Unassigned

For: CIRCULATING BODY AND FIXING DEVICE

Commissioner for Patents
MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application and before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of each listed document is attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following is listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and is in a language other than English.

a. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open 11-24457. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 3 of the specification of the present application and is shown in the English-language abstract.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and do not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitutes "prior art."

If it should be determined that the listed document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Goodell', is written over a horizontal line.

Robert J. Goodell Reg. No. 41,040

Date: February 23, 2004

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary) PTO Form 1449	Attorney Docket No. 051626-5008	Serial No. Unassigned
	Applicants Hitoshi KOMURO et al.	
	Filing Date February 23, 2004	Group Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	<u>Translation</u>	
							YES	NO
		11-24457	Jan. 29, 1999	Japan			w/abstract	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

Examiner	Date Considered
Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	